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CORNELL NOTETAKING

Key Words

1. Use wheel for transportation
2. Improve process of pottery making
3. Produce copper in quantities large enough to make tools and weapons
4. Irrigate fields
5. Study the stars
6. Develop engineering skills
7. Develop an efficient numbering system

Main Ideas/Supporting Ideas

- Used in Mesopotamia c. 3250 BCE
- 1st used to make pottery, still used today
- Later used with ploughs, carts, or chariots
 - Pulled by donkey/oxen
- Used a kiln—an enclosed oven for baking pottery and bricks
- Pottery and bricks harder and more durable than those dried by sun
- Combined copper with tin to make bronze
- Produce tools that were stronger than copper alone
- Superior tools allowed to build bigger, stronger boats, and land vehicles
- With better transportation, could trade with people in far away places
- At first, they carried water from rivers to their fields
- In time, dug channels/canals to let water from rivers flow to their fields
- Priests calculated best times for tilling fields, planting, harvesting crops
- Created calendar that had two seasons: summer and winter
- Calendar based on the phases of the moon, consisted of twelve months of thirty days
- Used knowledge of math to build huge temples, complex systems of canals, dikes, and ditches
- Invented number system based on sixty, was used by mathematicians/ astronomers until 1600s
- 3000 BCE clay tablets show five barriers of oil represented by the symbol for oil drawn five times
- Developed a system that separated symbols of the item from the amount
- New system was especially helpful when dealing with large quantities

Connections and Reflections (Summary)

The civilization of the Sumerians has left behind many contributions to our society today. We still follow the number system such as the number of months and the number of days in a year. I can relate to this contributions by following a number system as well.